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Title: Requests the Government to revive the sick public sector undertakings.

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (DURGAPUR): Sir, I want to raise a very serious issue. Several sleepless nights were spent by the employees working in MAMC, Cycle Corporation of India, BOGL, RIC National Instrumentation BPMEL, Weighbardttd, Jannery and Footwear.

A long march from Devipur to Asansol, a distance of 130 km, has already been launched from 9th February to 15th February, 1999, with the support of all political parties, to protest against the closure of certain public sector undertakings. You are aware that thousands and thousands of people came on to the roads and supported the march in favour of the revival packages. The Ministry of Finance allocated about Rs.517 crore for the VRS only but They are not allocating Rs.375 crore for the revival package. I want to know whether the public sector undertakings are to be revived or not. I request that Rs.4 crore should be allocated for BOGL and for certain amount for MAMC. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please sit down.

SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Sir, I want to highlight the issue.

1231 hrs

(At this stage, Shri Sunil Khan cameand sat on the floor near the Table.)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Sunil Khan, please go to your seat. Is this the way to behave in the House?

1231 hrs

(At this stage, Shri Sunil Khan

went back to his seat.)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : This is a serious matter. The Government should respond. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Acharia, serious matters are always raised in the zero hour. If a Minister or anybody from the Treasury Benches wants to react, I can allow him. This is not the way the Members should behave in the House.

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR (MUMBAI NORTH-WEST): Sir, they cannot insist on a reply from the Government. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : The Government should give some assurance. They have decided to close down eight public sector undertakings. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Acharia, you have had your chance and you have raised the matter. There are other hon. Members who have given notices.

... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I am on my legs. Will you not allow even the Presiding Officer to speak?

... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Several hon. Members gave notices yesterday but nobody got a chance to raise their issues. I want to exhaust the entire list today.

श्री मुलायम सिंह यादव (सम्भल) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, हम लोग आपसे नाराज़ नहीं हैं तो आप क्यों नाराज़ हो रहे हैं?

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : गुस्सा इसलिए हो रहा हूं कि उन लोगों को चान्स मिला है, मगर जिन लोगों को चान्स नहीं मिला है वह भी बैठे हैं। सबको चान्स मिलना चाहिए। यह ज़ीरो अवर है। हाउस कैसे कंडक्ट होगा? ज़ीरो अवर में इधर आकर बैठना ठीक नहीं है। इन सब सदस्यों को संभालना चाहिए।

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA): Sir, 28th February is the deadline by which they will have to take a decision. What will happen to these public sector undertakings? We want to know this from the Government. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : This is not the way to behave in the House. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Acharia, you are one of the senior Members.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : Sir, he cannot very often disturb the House like this. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA :We are not disturbing the House. We are raising a very serious issue. ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: If senior Members like Shri Acharia behave like this, what to talk of new Members.

... (Interruptions)

श्री बासवराज पाटिल सेडाम (गुलबर्गा): आप पब्लिक सेक्टर अंडरटेकिंग्ज़के बारे में बोलिये।

... (व्यवधान)

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : अब आप क्यों बोल रहे हैं? आप बैठिये।

... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Will you please resume your seat now.

>THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, all hon. Members are aware of the fact that during the `zero hour' many issues are raised in the House for which the Government does not receive prior notice. On issues where the Government has definite information, it tries to respond. On some other issue where there is a need to collect information, it is not proper on the part of any representative of the Government to respond off the cuff.

These issues are important, and there is a procedure which is laid down. A Member who raises an issue during Zero Hour will get a reply, that is also fixed. But saying that whoever is sitting here on behalf of the Government will be in a position to respond to all the issues which are being raised in this House... (Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : These are very important issues.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: They are important issues but I do not have notice. I did not have notice that you were going to raise the issue of Bank Employees' Strike. I do not have notice that you are going to raise issue of eight public sector undertakings... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Basu Deb Acharia, you do not want the hon. Finance Minister to react even. What is this? This is not the way.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: So, I am not going to respond on the part of the Government off the cuff because I will respond with full facts.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : When?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Whenever I am directed by the hon. Speaker.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Basu Deb Acharia, this is not the Question Hour.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : This is very unfortunate. They have fixed the deadline as 28th February about the voluntary separation schemes... (Interruptions)

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : How can he dictate terms in the House?... (Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, today is already 24th and it is very unfortunate that we do not have information about this... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Sunil Khan, please take your seat.

... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I am on my legs. Shri Basu Deb Acharia, please take your seat.

... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: This cannot be converted into a Question Hour. You know that during `Zero Hour', everybody raises serious matters of urgent public importance. The Government immediately cannot react there. If they have the facts and figures or the information available with them, they can respond.

... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: But you do not want to hear even me. What is this?

... (Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, a number of times we have mentioned about this issue. He knows that. He can tell us as to what the position is... (Interruptions)

>SHRI BIKASH CHOWDHURY (ASANSOL): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Industry regarding non-payment of statutory dues to the retired employees of the Cycle Corporation of India and other public sector undertakings for the last three or four years. Thousands of ex-workers are suffering due to this. Since they are not getting their dues, their families are starving. If they are not given their dues within fifteen days, then they have to sit in a dharna before the Industry Ministry. It is a very serious matter. The dues should be paid immediately to the retired employees. ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Lakshman Chandra Seth may please speak now.